

From: Peter Olsen
To: Microsoft ATR
Date: 1/24/02 8:50am
Subject: Microsoft Settlement

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I am writing to express my unhappiness with your settlement with Microsoft.

I have been involved in scientific computing for more than 30 years. During the last eight years, I have found it more and more difficult and expensive to do my job.

I believe this difficulty and expense can be traced directly to Microsoft's effective monopoly in operating systems.

For example, I had based a significant amount of work on Digital Research's DR-DOS because of some small, but significant, technical advantages. When I bought it, my Microsoft software, such as Word, worked with it easily. But when I upgraded to newer versions, my new Microsoft software would work no longer.

The Microsoft customer service response was simple: they told me that if I wanted to use their applications, I would have to buy their operating system. At the time, Microsoft explained this as a "technical incompatibility." We now know that Microsoft designed this incompatibility intentionally, with the specific purpose of forcing consumers onto the Windows platform.

Microsoft's conduct injured me directly. It certainly increased my cost and reduced my time. I believe it was intentional. I believe it was illegal.

And I know it was disproportionate to the remedy for which you have settled.

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